

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 00266 111807Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
EB-07 /049 W

-----111839Z 007827 /47

O R 111702Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DSAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 8777
OSAF WASHDC
ASD WPAFB OH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00266

DSAA FOR GEN FISH/COL PRESTON

OSAF FOR MR. KEEGAN

WPAFB FOR BG ABRAHAMSON

CINCEUR FOR GEN RYDER, ECJ4/7

FROM COL LAWRENCE, ODC-BELLUX

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, BE, US
SUBJECT: F-16 LOA - PAYMENT SCHEDULE

REFS: A. 76 BRUSSELS 012522 201608Z DEC (C). B. 76 BRUSSELS 012754
281425Z DEC. (C).

1. MEETING HELD TODAY 1600 HOURS WITH MG DEDEURWAERDER.
IN HIS OWN WORDS HE CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE
MEETING IN WASHINGTON AS PRODUCING CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM IN
HIS MIND AND THE MIND OF THE GOB THAT A SOLUTION TO THEIR
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FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WAS POSSIBLE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT
THE POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH ARE STILL REAL PREVENT THE
GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM FROM BEING ABLE TO GO PUBLIC
WITH ANY MAJOR REFINANCING OF THE F-16 PROGRAM. CON-
SEQUENTLY, HE WAS STILL FOCUSING ON THE ISSUE OF FRONT-
END LOADING. HE ADMITTED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD
BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE FELT THAT BOTH SIDES

(US AND GOB) APPROACHED THE ISSUE THROUGH A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND HONESTY OF PURPOSE. HE REPEATED TO ME HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AND THE SHARING OF THIS CONCERN WITH THE OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS OF WHAT APPEARS TO THEM TO BE EXCESSIVE EARLY PAYMENTS TO THE CONTRACTORS. HE FEELS THAT THIS ISSUE REQUIRES FULLER EXPLANATION BY THE USG.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE TIMING OF THE LOA, HE RE-EMPHASIZED BELGIUM'S WILLINGNESS TO DELAY RECEIPT OF SIGNED LOA UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY 77; I.E., WITHIN THEIR 60-DAY REVIEW PERIOD AND WITHIN THE LIFE OF THE PRELIMINARY CONTRACT. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE EMPHASIZED THAT A DELAY OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING BEYOND 1 FEBRUARY WAS PREFERABLE IN ORDER THAT THE LOA ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND AN AMOUNT OF TIME WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PREPARE FOR THE ISSUES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AFTER ADDRESSING THE LOA.

3. IN CLOSING, GENERAL DEDEURWAERDER RE-EMPHASIZED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A VERY POSITIVE APPROACH BY THE USG IN THE MEETINGS LAST WEEK AND THE USEFULNESS OF OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS, BOTH AT THIS END AND IN THE U.S. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT HE WOULD MUCH PREFER A DELAY IN THE RECEIPT OF THE LOA IF THIS PERMITS RESOLUTION OF SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING POINTS OF CONTENTION.

4. GENERAL DEDEURWAERDER HAD NOT DISCUSSED OR SEEN SECDEF'S LETTER OF 6 JANUARY, DELIVERED TO MOD VANDEN
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BOEYNANTS ON 10 JANUARY. IN AN OBLIQUE FASHION GENERAL DEDEURWAERDER LET ME KNOW THAT TAKING THE LOA ISSUE TO THE MOD LEVEL AT THIS TIME WAS NOT NECESSARY AND HE COULD WAIT UNTIL HE SEES THE NEXT VERSION OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ISSUE IS SOMEWHAT DEFUSED FROM PREVIOUS REPORTING IN REF B. GDS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY BUDGET, AGREEMENTS, MILITARY SALES, OFFSET PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: BRUSSELS
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770164/aaaaceaq.tel
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-16 LOA - PAYMENT SCHEDULE
TAGS: MASS, BE, US
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vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c212fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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